

# Hobbies

## WEEKLY

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## How you can make a novel CIGARETTE GUN

**T**HIS novel gadget holds a number of cigarettes and ejects them like shells from a gun, one at a time on turning the knob. A side and end view of the interior mechanism is shown in Figs. 1 and 2, side and end elevations respectively. This is how it works.

A is the cigarette hopper, B the carrier. As the carrier is rotated it conveys a cigarette to the gun, C, below. On the spindle of the carrier is a tubular shaped cam, D, which forces back a plunger. This, on being released, propels the cigarettes from the box. All simple enough and reliable in action if made carefully.

### Outside Case

Make the sides and ends of the case from  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. fretwood to dimensions given in Figs 1 and 2. Having cut the parts to size, place the ends together and bore a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. hole for the carrier spindle through both.

In the front end only, at a distance of  $1 \frac{9}{16}$  in. from the bottom, bore a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. hole for the cigarettes to shoot from. To this hole is glued a circular boss, E, representing the cannon's mouth.

This is made by gluing together two  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. discs of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. fretwood and boring a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. hole through both. Owing to the thinness of the wall of the boss the safest way of making it would be to glue two pieces of wood

together first, then to strike a  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. circle, bore the  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. hole through the circle and saw it out.

Glue and nail the front and sides together and fix the back in with screws so that it can be taken off while the mechanism is being fitted inside.

### The Baseboard

The baseboard, made from  $3/16$  in. wood, is about  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. larger all round than the box. It can now be fixed. The top,  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. larger all round and also cut from  $3/16$  in. wood, can be made now but is fixed last.

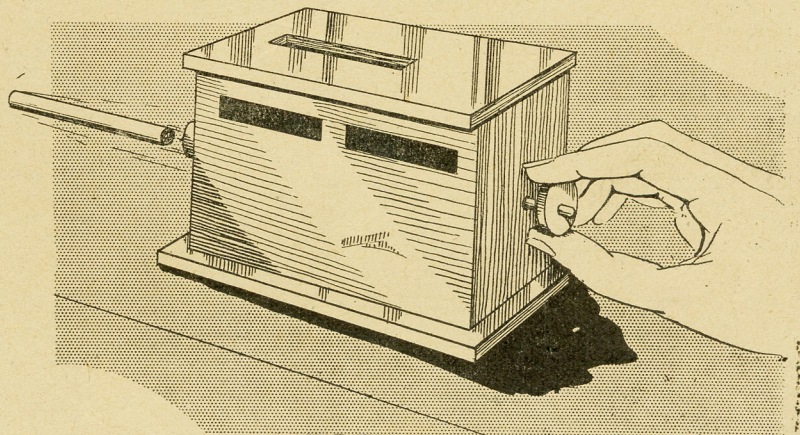
The parts of the gun are shown in Fig. 3. Cut 2 of F in  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. wood and

2 of G in  $3/16$  in. wood. Glue the latter two together to make a thickness of  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. Glue part G between sides F, as shown by the dotted line, the hollow between being the bore of the gun.

### The Plunger

The plunger, H, is cut from  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. wood. Where shown bore a hole through and stick a  $1 \frac{1}{4}$  in. piece of stiff wire through, bending the ends backward. At the top drive in a nail and file off the head, leaving a pin about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long.

Where shown in sides F, cut a slot in each a loose fit for the side pins of the plunger. These slots should be





cut before gluing the parts together.

Glaspaper the plunger to smoothness so that it slides easily along the bore of the gun. Now fix the gun in the case, with its bore in line with the hole in the front where the boss is glued. Fix it central, a small screw in front and one underneath should fix it firmly enough.

The carrier, B, is shown in Fig. 4. Cut 4 of the discs, I, and glue together in pairs. In the centres bore a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. hole for the spindle, and where shown cut out a notch a bare  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. square.

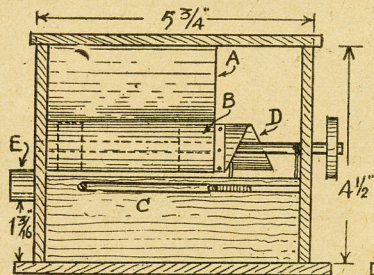


Fig. 1—A cross section of the box

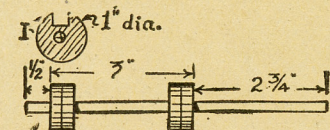


Fig. 4—The cigarette carrier

The spindle is a length of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. round wood rod. Glue the discs to this rod at the distances given, taking care that the notches in both are truly in line. Now to make the cigarette hopper, A.

For this part cut two end pieces in  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. wood to the size and shape given in Fig. 2, J. The sides of the hopper will be the case itself.

#### Sloping Floors

The sloping bottoms are made from tin. Cut 2 to the size given in Fig. 5, and on a line  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. from each end punch a few small holes for nailing. Bend on the dotted line to a rather acute angle and then press parts K.I. round a broomstick to curve them.

Fix these bottom pieces to the ends J to form the hopper, leaving a  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. space between them in the centre for the cigarettes to drop out. Cut a  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. dia. wood washer from  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. fretwood, slip this on the front of the carrier spindle and push the spindle in its holes.

Now fix the hopper above it so that the cigarette opening comes directly over the notches in the carrier. The hopper should be about  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. clear of the carrier, not resting on it.

If these parts are fitted correctly,

a cigarette dropped in the hopper will fall through and rest in the carrier, where a turn of the spindle will carry it and deposit it in the bore of the gun below. Adjust the tin parts, K.I. as necessary, by bending them with the fingers, until they embrace the carrier but do not touch it, as shown by the outlines in the end view, Fig. 2.

The parts of the tubular cam, D, are shown in Fig. 6. Cut 2 discs of L, glue both together and bore a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. hole in the centre. Cut 1 of part M

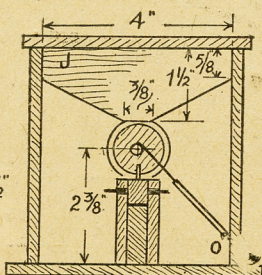


Fig. 2—An end section

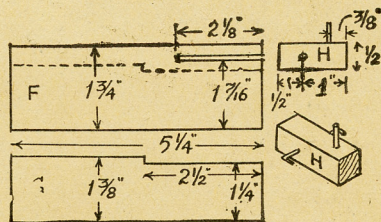


Fig. 3—The parts of the gun

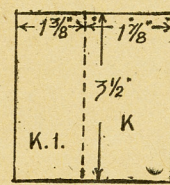
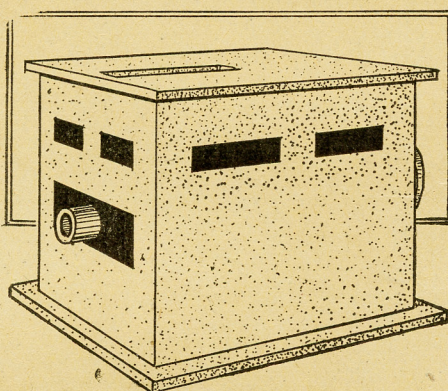


Fig. 5—The floors



A view from the front end of the case

in tin, and at  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the top edge punch a few holes for nailing.

Bend it to tubular form round a broomstick and nail to disc L, it being understood that nailing is done only to one of the discs. In other words a  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. of the disc's edge is free of tin.

Slide the cam on the spindle of the carrier up to the first disc with the notch in it. Then, with the cam touching the pin on the plunger, as in detail N, and the notches in the carrier directly under the opening in the hopper above, fix the cam by a screw going through it and entering the notched disc touching it.

As this might be awkward to do with the carrier in place, a pencil mark could be made on both the discs when in their right relative positions, and then, with the carrier taken out, they

could be screwed together easily enough with the pencil marks as a guide.

#### Elastic Bands

The side pins on the plunger should have a strong elastic band hooked over them, the bands being stretched over screw heads driven in further towards the front, as seen in Fig. 1.

Fit the back in again and turn the spindle. If fitted correctly it should force the plunger back and release it at each turn. In the spindle, just against the back of the case, bore a small hole right through. Thread

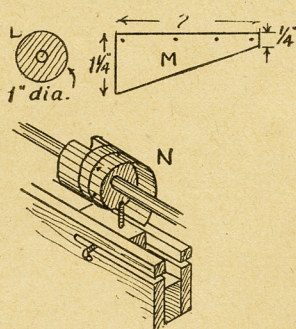


Fig. 6—The tubular cam

a short bit of fine cord through the hole and knot it to prevent it being drawn out.

Tie the free end of the cord to an elastic band and stretch the band to a small wire hook fixed to the side of the case (see Fig. 2.O). This will pull the spindle of the carrier back after each turn, with its notches directly under the hopper, ready for a cigarette to fall in it.

#### Lid Filling

In the lid, or top of the case, saw out a slot, 3 ins. long and  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. wide, so that the cigarettes can be dropped in. The slot, of course, should be directly over the hopper. Fix the lid on with a few small screws.

Finish the cigarette gun by painting it white, with the spaces black, the latter to represent the firing openings in a concrete pillbox, and glue a  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. disc of fretwood on the spindle as a turning knob.

There are not enough copies of Hobbies to go round; please share yours with a friend



# Some practical hints and suggestions on SIMPLE METAL WORK

ON looking round one often sees good examples of embossed copper and brass work. On furniture, in panels of cupboards and wardrobes and in smaller articles such as fingerplates etc.

Only the expert metal worker could hope to copy and reproduce such work as that carried out by our old master craftsmen, but there is satisfaction in reproducing something of a simpler nature, where simpler tools are used from those adopted years ago. There is an easy method of working in copper, aluminium or similar soft metals which provides an interesting and fascinating hobby.

Nearly all the foregoing metals are, however, difficult to get now, but any odd scraps that are obtainable might well be put to use in experimental work of a decorative nature.

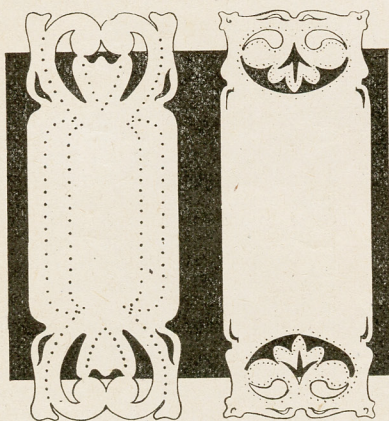


Fig. 1.—Two simple fingerplates

We show at Fig. 1 a couple of finger plates of simple design which the worker might commence upon. No hard and fast sizes need be kept for these, but a length of 8 ins. may be given somewhat as a guide. The metal must be beaten flat, and the design traced upon it by means of carbon paper.

If the nature of the material used does not allow this process, then the design may be made on thin tracing paper and stuck down with gum to the metal.

## End of Plates

In Fig. 2, A and B, we show enlargements of the ends of the fingerplates. These portions only need be reproduced; the remaining straight central part of the plates being simply drawn in in pencil or lined in with a pointed steel scriber. It will be seen from the illustrations of the plates that they are fretted, the opening being cut with special metal-cutting saws.

Holes therefore will have to be drilled to admit the saw in just the same manner as fret-cutting in wood. The actual work of cutting the metal, of course; will be slower than that for wood, and some little patience will therefore be necessary at first until the hand has gained confidence and practice in negotiating curves and corners.

When the cutting has been done certain parts will need the attention of the file no doubt, but do not file or scratch the face of the metal. Having done perhaps, the most difficult part of the work, it only remains to add the punched work which at once gives refinement and a tone of finish to the metal.

## Metal Working

A few nails of various thicknesses and a light hammer or mallet are needed. If, however, one or two steel punches are included in the worker's outfit of tools, so much the better as they are easier to handle than the nails. The points in any case must not be sharp.

While perhaps a finer edge, or point shall we say, will be used for the design shown at A, Fig. 2, a more rounded or bluff point might be used for that shown at B.

In working the punches, it is simply a matter of following round the lines. A point to remember, however, is that the plate must rest on a solid surface before the hammering is commenced.

Hold the punch upright with the left hand allowing the little finger to rest on the metal alongside the punch, so the latter is guided evenly and truly during the hammering. Keep the hammering as consistent as possible so that all the indentations are of the same depth, and of course keep equal distances between the "dots" as far as possible.

## A Plant Box

In Fig. 3 we show an attractive little bulb or plant box which has been decorated with a metal panel. Speaking briefly on the construction of the box we may say that there are two sides, two ends and a floor all screwed together with brass screws.

Then at the ends of the two sides there are shaped uprights forming feet to the box and raising it well off the table. These uprights are square in section and are recessed so they fit on to the sides in the manner shown. In one of the sides a sunken panel is formed

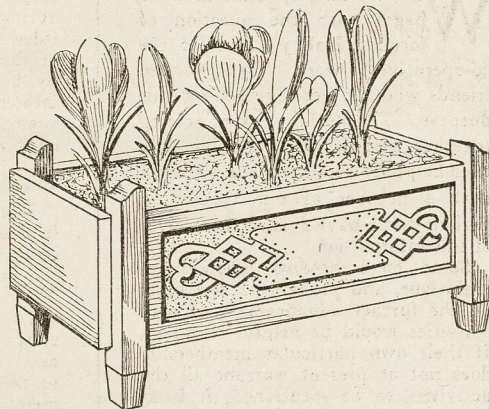


Fig. 3.—A metal panel on a bulb box

by cutting out an oblong with the fretsaw and screwing on inside another panel of wood about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. or so larger than the opening all round.

The face of this sunken panel should be matted all over with a matting punch specially made for doing this kind of work.

Then finally there is a worked metal panel carried out in the processes previously mentioned.

## A Cut-out Panel

At C in Fig. 2 an enlargement of the design for the metal panel is given. The sizes of the sunken panel are set out on a sheet of paper and the outline for the metal panel laid out proportionately.

If the box has been made from mahogany then the metal panel should consist of brass. Or again, if beech or oak has been adopted for the box, then copper or tinned steel (from an ordinary household container) might be used. The latter metal must be carefully japanned before being put on

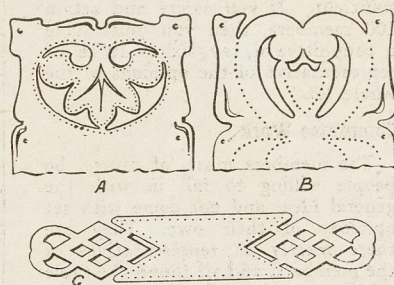


Fig. 2.—Details of the cut-out work

with fine fret pins.

Small earthenware pots would be best for the plants if a well-made zinc or other lining cannot be obtained where earth may be deposited direct.



# Following the suggestion a fortnight ago we give some MORE CLUB NOTES

**W**E have already dealt in these pages with the question of forming Hobby Clubs for the co-operative work of several friends who can get together for this purpose. The initial work of getting together, and details of running have been helpfully described, and we know that a number of our readers in various parts have availed themselves of this information.

Some have become much more ambitious, and probably a few hints on the further advancement of club activities would be helpful to many. If their own particular membership does not at present warrant all the activities to be mentioned, it is at least an idea to bear in mind in the hope that when people and things are less mobile and plastic, a real Hobbies Club can be formed.

## Form a Committee

As the membership expands it will be necessary to provide interests for a number of them who are particularly enthusiastic for the welfare and progress of the club. These people probably feel that they are not active enough as members only, and they are just the people to get as members of a committee.

They will be delighted with the opportunity, and at the same time provide a suitable little community to thresh out details and maintain wider interests.

In a properly constituted club you already have a Secretary, Treasurer (or both in one) and possibly a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The committee is a very useful adjunct if you get 20 or more members. The actual number allowed will, of course, vary roughly with the membership.

If you have 20 to 30 members then a committee of three or four is sufficient. If you aspire and attain 100 members, then you must have a committee of, say, six to 10 to be representative of the opinions of the whole lot.

## Committee Work

The members must, of course, be people willing to fall in with the general idea, and not come with set opinions of their own. They are there merely as representatives of the members, and sit round the table to discuss and decide matters for the good of the club as a whole. The Committee members must not be too talkative, should be constructive in their criticism, and understand that the matters talked about in committee are not for general discussion outside.

With a Committee, of course, you

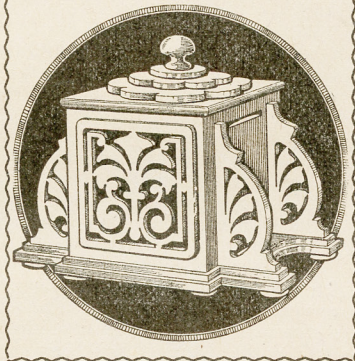
must have a Chairman, who takes the voting of the members and generally rules the meeting fairly. Members of the Committee should be elected by ballot, and this forms quite an interesting little ceremony for an evening as a variation from the ordinary work.

## Taking a Ballot

It can be done with slips of paper in a box, and the date of the actual ballot should be known to all, with the opportunity provided for voting. The Chairman and the Secretary should be responsible for seeing the secrecy of the ballot is carried out, and then to allocate the votes cast to decide the names of the winning members.

## Our free design A MYSTERY MONEY BOX

The patterns for making this Money Box (No. 2526) are presented free with this issue. The necessary material in planed boards is obtainable for 3/3 from Hobbies Branches or by post from Hobbies Ltd., Derham, Norfolk for 3/10 post free.



If you are ambitious enough to want to run exhibitions, then a committee such as this is particularly helpful because the Secretary can delegate various duties to those most able to do them and so relieve himself of quite a large amount of work.

One can arrange the hiring of the hall, the lighting, the cost, etc. Another can make himself responsible for the programme, the printing, the tickets, etc., and so on; whilst a third will see to the invitations and contact various people likely to be interested.

These exhibitions, even if only held in a small way, in a small hall or building, can be made to attract a good deal of attention—particularly if some of the models can be sold for the benefit of Service charities.

Or, of course, you can make a small entrance charge on the understanding it is to be given to a charitable institution. Unless this is done, remember, you may be liable to the Entertainment Tax, which involves a considerable amount of extra and unwanted labour.

## Charges and Publicity

If you are running an exhibition of large proportion at all, get show bills displayed in shop windows in your district, and endeavour to get some well-known local personage to come along and open it and speak to your friends. Do not forget, too, that the Press will probably be interested, and even if they do not send a representative along, they will be glad to receive a few notes from you as to the outstanding models, the names of those who made them, the Chairman of the meeting, and any particular personage who performed the opening ceremony.

## Auctions for Charity

If the models are to be sold for charity, it is a good idea to get a capable person to auction them off at a certain time. If this auctioneer is a good salesman, he can introduce quite a lot of fun and interest into these proceedings, and add very considerably to the amount raised for the Red Cross, Prisoners of War Fund, or whatever charitable cause is decided upon.

In this connection, the co-operative efforts of the club are particularly helpful, and you will find opportunity for making combined pieces of work of added interest to obtain better results.

## Planning Forward

For instance, the club looking well ahead should decide to have an exhibition, say, in three months' time, and decide before that date to complete, shall we say, a doll's house and set of furniture? Or a whole naval fleet and harbour can be built from the miniature designs we have published. In the same way, a wide range of miniature or larger aeroplanes can be constructed from designs to form a whole layout for sale complete or individually.

This co-operative effort of the working together should be in addition, of course, to the individual efforts, and members should make up their mind to get as much variety into the exhibition as possible.

All should not undertake the same type of model or class of fretwork. Some should do tanks, lorries, planes and ships, whilst others will make up simple articles like pipe racks, cigarette boxes, picture frames, etc.



Apart from exhibitions, clubs might consider the value of running a periodical Visiting Night. This could be when somebody interested in their work comes along to see what is being done, or the visitor may be in a position to give a little talk to the members on their work in particular, or on handiwork in general.

### Guest Nights

People like the master of a Wood-work Centre, or an Art School are often willing to undertake helpful technical talks, whilst many private individuals can give a short evening to a travel talk of places where they have been, of peculiar or interesting

buildings in your own town, of some of the marvels of factories and manufacture, and so on.

Every club starts off with great enthusiasm, but it is sometimes difficult to maintain this in every member over a long period. Not that the work gets monotonous or tiring, but that a little change is perhaps wanted. Or some added interest provided to enliven the life and work of the club.

If it is felt that a certain lassitude is beginning to appear among the members—a lack of interest generally—that is the time for the energetic Secretary to cast his mind over the suggestions here previously given.

By bringing the matter to the members with the suggestion for some of the events to be held, he will probably rejuvenate the flagging interest, and put the whole club life back on the enthusiastic and progressive basis.

### Keep Members' Interest

If any readers, by the way, as officials or members of these clubs, find any little difficulties in their running, we hope they will write to the Editor. He should be able to help them straighten matters out, and will be delighted to assist where he can. A special leaflet about it is also obtainable free on request.

## There are several ways of making snappy little HOME-MADE BAROMETERS

HERE are some novel types of barometers which, if carefully constructed and finished, would make very acceptable little Xmas presents. The methods of "finish" given here may be regarded, if desired, as suggestions only and the "barometers" incorporated in more ambitious articles.

Fig. 1 shows a blotting paper barometer. Either a circular or many-sided block is first made, about 3ins. diameter and  $\frac{3}{16}$ in. thick. Then cut a number of circular pieces from a sheet of thick blotting paper, each piece being slightly less in diameter than the previous one. When they are all piled together they form a pyramid as shown.

Now make up a strongly-saturated

if the hole in the block is just the right size.

The weather indication is given by the colour of the paper changing due to the impregnated salt. When there is rain coming (and therefore plenty of moisture in the air) the hue becomes deep red, but if the weather is going to be dry the paper becomes almost white with crystallized atoms of salt. A little neatly printed notice telling of this effect should be gummed to the bottom of the block.

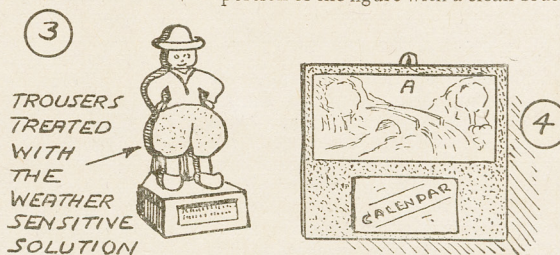
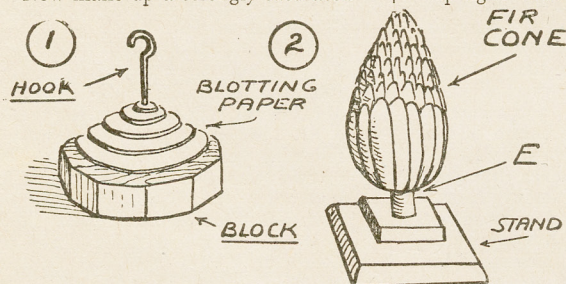
Barometer No. 2 gets its weather-forecasting power from the fact that a fir cone will open when the moisture content of the air is small, that is when the weather is likely to be fine, no matter what its immediate appearance. Conversely a cone closes up tight when there is rain about.

and colour all of the figure except his trousers, leaving them white. Glue the drawing, which may be 5ins. or 6ins. high, on to a suitable piece of wood and cutting it out carefully mount it on to a solid base with a triangular support at the back.

### Sensitizing Solution

Finally comes the sensitizing of the trousers. This is effected by painting with a solution of gelatine, cobalt chloride, glycerine and water. To mix, put 6ozs. of water into a small pan and place on a gas ring to heat. As the temperature rises put in some pieces of gelatine.

This quickly dissolves and when all the lumps have gone add 60 grains of the cobalt chloride and after stirring add 24 drops of the glycerine. This solution is applied to the uncoloured portion of the figure with a clean brush



solution of ordinary household salt and placing the circles of blotting paper in it, leave them to soak for about five minutes and then place out to dry. When the moisture has almost completely left the pieces smear each with a little gum and piling them together put them under slight pressure while drying finishes.

While this is taking place finish the block, either by a coat of stain or polish only if the wood has a pleasing natural appearance. Finally bore down the pile of blotting paper and into the block and insert the wire handle shown. It will hold quite well by friction and a touch of glue

Procure the largest cone you can and then make a fairly solid base and after staining and polishing if desired fix the cone as indicated by a vertical piece (E) glued into a hole bored in the block and another one taken carefully into lower centre of the cone.

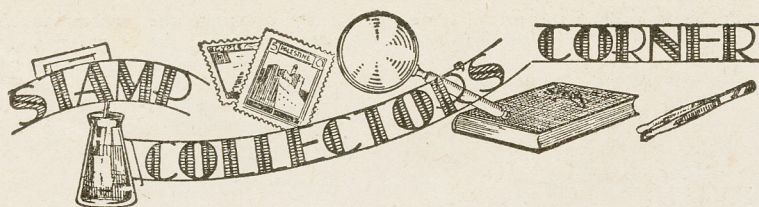
Again a strip of paper should be fastened to the underside of the stand telling how the barometer works, in couplet form if possible such as:—  
"When cone is open fine it'll be  
But if closed tight rain you'll see."

Fig. 3 shows a cut-out Dutchman whose trousers change colour according to the state of the weather. First draw the Dutchman in strong lines

When the weather is dry the trousers it will be found, are of a bright blue tint, but as rain threatens they will become pink. This result comes about as some readers will know by the effect of the humidity on the chloride. Again instructions should be attached but in this case they look well, if neatly printed, fixed on to the front of the stand as shown.

This method of sensitizing a certain part of a drawing or photograph can be incorporated in many forms of pictorial calendars, where skies A, etc. (Fig. 4), can be treated. Finally note that all these barometers work better if hanging near a door.





## CZECH HISTORY IN STAMPS

**C**ZECHOSLOVAKIA has only issued stamps after it became an independent state in 1918, but since then it has issued many sets, mostly commemorative. After the Nazi occupation of the country in March, 1939, no further stamps have been issued.

The average general collector may have a few Czechoslovakian stamps, but perhaps has little interest in the country because he has only a little knowledge.

The stamps of Czechoslovakia, however, throw much light on its history, its life, and its industries. She has produced many famous men, including musicians, architects, and scientists. Her stamps are attractive in colour and design, and the 1925 line-engraved issues offer a field for a

of Constance, declared a heretic, and burnt. His death was followed by a 20 years war, in which the Hussites, under the skilful leadership of the blind general Zizka, won important religious concessions. A Hussite is the subject of two photogravure stamps: the 80 haleru violet and the 90 haleru sepia of the 1920-25 set.

### The State Founder

One of Czechoslovakia's greatest men was President Masaryk, the real founder of the modern Czechoslovakian state. He was thrice elected President, and his portrait appears on many stamps. His 80th and his 85th birthdays were both celebrated by a new issue. On his death in September, 1937, aged 87, two stamps in black were issued to commemorate the passing of a great man.

it might be interesting to note that in December, 1934, special souvenir sheets of 15 stamps were issued with the words and music of the Czech National Anthem printed above and below the stamps. These sheets are rare.

### Other Great Men

Other great men of Czechoslovakia who have appeared on stamps may be mentioned briefly: John Amos Komeny, better known as Comenius, the Renaissance thinker and educationist K. H. Macha, the poet; and J. E. Purkyne, the physiologist. The two stamps showing Purkyne issued in September, 1937, commemorated the 150th anniversary of his birth.

One of the most novel and interesting features of Czech life was the great "slet" or festival, held every six years in Prague, where many thou-



President Masaryk 1926 "View" Stamp

The Sokol Founder

Smetana, the musician

An 85th Birthday issue

Comenius, the thinker

little mild specialization.

The first stamps were issued in October, 1918 by the Revolutionary Committee headed by President Masaryk. Eduard Benes, his successor as President, was his secretary in the Committee.

The set comprised two values, the 10 haleru bright blue, and the 20 haleru bright carmine. They were embossed, and are becoming quite scarce. The earliest commemorative sets celebrated the millenary of the death of "Good King Wenceslas," who was prince of Bohemia for a short time. He was murdered in 929. There are five values in the set, all now becoming scarce.

### A Blind Leader

Many other great men in Czechoslovakian history, besides these three, have been portrayed on Czechoslovakian stamps. The first of these was John Huss, a Bohemian peasant's son and religious reformer. He translated such works as Wycliffe's "Trialogues" into Czech, and urged his countrymen to a simple Christian morality.

He gained a large following, and was in the end tried by the Council

Dr. Eduard Benes, who represented Czechoslovakia at the Peace Conference in 1918, succeeded Masaryk as President in 1937. His portrait appears on two stamps issued before that date, first, in May, 1936, when a 50 haleru stamp in blue-green showed a full-face view of him, and secondly in April, 1937, when a stamp of the same value showed a side view.

Czechoslovakia, however, has produced many other famous figures besides men of action. Her two most distinguished musicians have appeared on stamps. Smetana, famous for his opera "The Bartered Bride," was commemorated by a 50 haleru stamp issued in March, 1934, on the fiftieth anniversary of his death.

Dvorjak, the composer of "The New World Symphony," was commemorated by a stamp of the same value in November, 1943, 30 years after his death. While on the subject of music

sands gathered to see the sport. The "slet" was run by the Sokol, the largest voluntary gymnastic organisation in the world.

The Sokol was formed by Dr. Tyrs. Four stamps were issued in March, 1932, to commemorate the centenary of his death. For no apparent reason a fifth in violet was issued in the following year.

Two sets were issued to commemorate the Sokol Display, the first being an earlier set showing a portrait of President Masaryk with the overprint "VIII All-Sokol Display, Prague, 1926" embossed. The second was issued in June, 1928, to commemorate the 10th Sokol Display, and showing a Falcon.



President Benes

Czech Legionnaires

10th Sokol Display



Czechoslovakia is a land of beautiful mountains, and towns which are full of fine buildings, bridges, and sculpture. The Tatra Mountains attracted hundreds of tourists every year before the war.

As might be expected, then, Czechoslovakia has produced many stamps showing mountains and town scenes. In 1926, a long set was issued showing three castles, two towns, and a scene in the upper Tatra. Czechoslovakian architecture is either Gothic or baroque—though both have been adapted to local conditions by Czech architects and sculptors.

#### Independence Set

On the 10th anniversary of Independence in 1928, a set was issued including a portrait of President Masaryk along with town and mountain views. Since then one or two "view" stamps were issued at intervals, till in 1936 another long set appeared. In 1938 a stamp showing the Skoda armament factories at Pilsen was issued to commemorate a

Provincial Economic Council meeting at Pilsen.

The fine military tradition of the Czechs founded by Zizka was maintained by the Czech Legion in the closing stages of the last war. This Legion was mainly composed of Czechs who had deserted from the Austro-Hungarian Army to fight on the Allied side.

Many thousands of them were in Russia when the Bolshevik Revolution broke out. The Bolsheviks promised them a safe passage home through the Far East, but when it became evident that their arms would be used by the White Russian armies in Siberia the promise was withdrawn.

The Czechoslovaks scattered in 190 trains on the Trans-Siberian railway, determined to fight their way home via Vladivostok. This march was one of the most heroic episodes of Czech history, and has now become almost legendary.

The 20th anniversary of the Legion's foundation was commemorated in

August, 1934, by four stamps. In June, 1937, two stamps commemorating the Battle of Zborov were issued, showing Czechoslovak Legionaries, and in 1938 on the 20th anniversary of battles in Russia, Italy, and France, three stamps were issued showing Legionaries in all these countries.

#### An Army Enslaved

When Hitler came to power the Czechoslovak Army was one of the best in Europe. The Munich Agreement, however, compelled them to give up everything without a struggle.

During her 20 years existence Czechoslovakia was considered the most prosperous, democratic, and successful of all the new states in Central Europe, and her restoration after this war, especially if she continues to co-operate closely with U.S.S.R. will be Europe's surest guarantee against a renewal of German aggression. We shall certainly hear more of the Czechs and their stamps after the war.

## A light for outhouse or scullery is made by these ELECTRICAL EXTENSIONS

It is sometimes found necessary to run an electric light (from the house supply) to the scullery or to a lean-to shed adjoining the kitchen wall outside. Assuming there is a three-pin switch plug in the kitchen near the window for a smoothing iron, but constantly where a mains-operated wireless receiver is concerned, rather than go to the trouble of buying an extra plug-in knob for an extension light or keeping inserting and removing these to use this and that, keep the wireless plug in the switch sockets and run extra wires from the wires connected to this plug.

It is a simple job, and the first thing to do is to cut off the current at the meter box and thus work in absolute safety. Keeping the plug in its sockets, bare the flexible cable wire some distance from the plug.

Having exposed the wire strands, scrape them, then bare the ends of the extension wire and connect to the exposed wire. The joins are then bound with insulation tape, each separately, then bound together to make a good job of it.

#### A Scullery Light

If the extra electric lamp is wanted in the scullery, it is only necessary to take the extension wire along the skirting and bring it into the scullery and up the wall, preferably up alongside the scullery door, to a suitable height.

You need a batten-type lamp holder and a small switch. The former is attached to the woodwork after the

ends of the extension wire have been connected to it. The switch is (or should be) situated lower down the wire. In order to break the circuit, one wire is cut, the ends bared and fixed in the switch sockets, then the switch screwed to the woodwork.

When fitting the switch, by the way, make sure you do not do it so the "dolly" is working upside down. The dolly—it is really the switch—should switch the light on when it is drawn downwards.

#### An Outhouse Light

In the case of an outhouse, such as a shed, it will be found easier to drill a hole through the window framework so the wire can be brought from the wireless supply wires (running below the window inside) to the outside and thus into the shed. The extension wire, however, must not be left exposed to the weather.

The writer got out of this difficulty by fitting a piece of 3/4 in. gas piping (lead) into the outlet hole in the window frame, bringing the extension wires through it, then inserting them into the hole in the shed, following which the piping was suitably bent and inserted. To make a waterproof job, putty was pressed around the pipe at the holes in the window frame and shed, then the lot painted.

The wire inside the shed was brought along to the door and a switch and batten-type electric lamp holder fitted up as previously explained. That happened about six-years ago and the extension has given no trouble ever since it was fitted.

If the job had to be done over again however, the writer would use lead-covered, twin-wire cable, keeping the lead on the portion exposed outside only, but the method used is worth knowing in these days of accessory shortages.

#### Testing the Light

When you have everything fitted up to satisfaction, turn on the supply at the meter box, then switch on. If you have followed the instructions correctly, the lamp will light up without trouble. If it does not light, there may be a dis-connection somewhere or a break in the extension wire (this is only likely if you have used old stuff).

Incidentally, seeing that there is already a switch in the circuit from where you get your source of supply, i.e., at the kitchen plug-in, there is no need to have an independent switch in the scullery or shed, for the supply can be switched on or cut off at the kitchen plug-in.

That, however, is mentioned in case the extension is run from the kitchen plug only and not from the same plug wires belonging to the radio. In the latter case, one would have to keep the extension light burning in order to run the receiver, which is not to be tolerated for a moment. An extra switch is cheap and worth the trouble of fitting up.

The switch in the kitchen is thus a master switch, cutting off the supply to both wireless and extension lamp. It will not interfere in any way with the kitchen lamp, for it has an independent switch of its own.



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